AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

- - Figure 9. The predicted amino acid sequence at the amino terminus of the human Del-1 protein (SEQ ID NO: 22) shows characteristics common to signal peptides. The putative signal sequence of human Del-1(SEQ ID NO. 22 from residues # 3 to #21) begins with a basic arginine residue and is followed by a stretch of 18 amino acids rich in hydrophobic residues. Signal peptides typically end with a small amino acid such as glycine or alanine. In addition, the Chou and Fasman algorithm predicts that the putative signal sequence is followed by a protein turn structure, a feature commonly found after signal peptides. The Del-1 protein is secreted by expressing cells.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 27, with the following rewritten paragraph

- - Figure 10. Sequence similarities between the three EGF-like domains of Del-1 (~~SEQ ID NOS: 23-25~~ EGF-like domain of Del-1 (1): SEQ ID NO. 23; EGF-like domain of Del-1 (2): SEQ ID NO. 24; EGF-like domain of Del-1 (3): SEQ ID NO. 25) and homology with the consensus EGF-like domain amino acid sequence (CONSENSUS EGF DOMAIN: SEQ ID NO: 26). Also, the amino acid sequence RGD is in the center of the second EGF-like repeat. This sequence is found in a variety of extracellular matrix

proteins and, in some cases is required for binding to integrin proteins. An RGD sequence is present in the same position in the second EGF-like repeat of MFG-E8.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph

- - Figure 11. Human *del-1* splicing variant partial sequence (Nucleotide sequence: SEQ ID NO: 27; amino acid sequence: SEQ ID NO. 31) showing the variation as compared with the major form.

Please replace the lines 20 and 21 at page 51 with the following two lines:

+ strand primer:	ACC CAA GGG GCA AAA AGG A (SEQ ID NO: 32)
- strand primer	CCT GTA ACC ATT GTG ACT G (SEQ ID NO: 33)